

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9515
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F W D E N T I A L TUNIS 0190

COPENHAGE AND PARIS FOR LABATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, TS, LY, PFOR
SUBJ: SUPPOSED TEXT OF UGTT-LIBYAN TRADE UNION COMMUNIQUE
SIGNED IN TRIPOLI DEC 26

REF: (A) PARIS 0601, (B) TUNIS 0135, (C) PARIS 00474

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FROM RELIABLE JOURNALISTIC SOURCE ARABIC TEXT AND FRENCH TRANSLATION OF WHAT IS PURPORTED TO BE JOINT UGTT-LIBYAN TRADE UNION COMMUNIQUE SIGNED IN TRIPOLI DEC 26. WE HAVE COMPARED THE TWO VERSIONS AND THEY ARE THE SAME. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, ARABIC TEXT WAS DISTRIBUTED BY LIBYAN PRESS AGENCY ARNA IN TRIPOLI AND "FOUND ITS WAY TO TUNISIA." IT WAS NOT ISSUED IN TUNISIA, EITHER BY TUNISIAN PRESS AGENCY TAP OR BY UGTT, AND WAS GIVEN TO JOURNALIST PRIVATELY FROM NON-UGTT SOURCE. COMMUNIQUE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED ON BEHALF OF UGTT BY SADOK BESBES, ASST. SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS, WHO WAS IN TRIPOLI TO ATTEND MEETING OF CENTRAL COUNCIL OF ARAB
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LABOR UNIONS HELD DEC 25 AND 26. (BESBES IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED IN TUNISIA TO BE A CLOSE ASSOCIATE AND LIEUTENANT TO UGTT SECRETARY GENERAL HABIB ACHOUR.) COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT REFERRED TO BY UGTT WEEKLY ACH-CHAAB IN EITHER ITS DEC 30 OR JAN 6 ISSUES.

2. OUR SOURCE REPORTS THAT IN PRIVATE INTERVIEW GRANTED ON DEC 4, ACHOUR RESPONDED TO QUESTION ABOUT DOCUMENT BY SAYING

CATEGORICALLY UGTT HAD SIGNED JOINT COMMUNIQUE. WHEN FURTHER QUESTIONED ABOUT UGTT SUPPORT OF REJECTION FRONT EXPRESSED IN COMMUNIQUE, ACHOUR YEPORTEPLY REPLIED, "WHY NOT, WE ARE FREE TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS AND WE DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW THOSE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT."

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO ATTEST TO AUTHENTICITY OF THIS DOCUMENT (REPEATED BELOW IN FRENCH) BUT WE NOTE THAT UGTT IN ITS COMMUNIQUE ON SUBJECT PUBLISHED DEC 7 (SEE REF (B)) DID NOT DENY MAJOR ELEMENTS OF DOCUMENT WHICH WAS SUMMARIZED IN LE MONDE DEC 6.

4. FOR COPENHAGEN (LABATT): ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE MAKE TEXT OF SUPPOSED COMMUNIQUE AVAILABLE TO AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN, WHO IS NOW IN COPENHAGEN IN CONNECTION WITH SAKAROV COMMITTEE. ALSO PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR TO BROWN THAT EMBASSY QANNOT GUARANTEE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS DOCUMENT, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE IT TO BE THE REAL THING.

5. FOR TRIPOLI: ACTION REQUESTED. IF POSSILE, CAN YOU CONFIRM ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUE BY ARNA IN TRIPOLI AT CLOSE OF ARAB LABOR UNION'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING? WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ISSUED THERE AND DOCUMENT MADE AVAILABLE TO US HERE IN TUNIS. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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6. GEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

TEXT: QUOTE. COMMUNIQUE COMMUN DE L'UNION DES SYNDICATS DES OUVRIERS DE LA JAMAHYRIA ARABE LIBYENNE ET DE L'U.G.T.T., TRIPOLI: L'U.G.T.T. ET L'UNION GENERALE DES SYNDICATS DES OUVRIERS DE LA JAMAHYRIA LIBYENNE ONT PUBLIE UN COMMUNIQUE COMMUN DANS LEQUEL ON LIT:

"POUR RAFFERMIR LA COOPERATION EXISTANTE ENTRE L'U.G.T.T. ET L'UNION GENERALE DES SYNDICATS DES OUVRIERS DE LA JAMAHRIA ARABE LIBYENNE; DANS LE BUT D'ORGANISER LES OUVRIERS TUNISIENS ET PAR SOUCI DE PROTEGER LEURS INTERETS AINSI QUE CEUX DES PEUPLES ARABES DANS LES DEUX PAYS FRERES; ET AU TERME DE PLUSIEURS REUNIONS TENUES PAR LES DEUX CENTRALES SYNDICALES A TRIPOLI LES 15 ET 16, 1398 MOHARREM CORRESPONDANTS AUX 25 ET 26 DECEMBRE 1977, IL A ETE DECIDE D'IMPLANTER UNE FEDERATION SYNDICALE DE L'U.G.T.T. EN TERRE LIBYENNE, DONT LA DIRECTION SERA CONFIEE A UN COMITE ELU PAR LES OUVRIERS TUNISIENS TRAVAILLANT A LA JAMAHYRIA ARABE LIBYENNE, A CONDITION TOUTEFOIS QUE LE BUREAU ADMINISTRATIF DE CETTE FEDERATION SIEGE DANS LES LOCAUX DE LA CENTRALE SYNDICALE LIBYENNE OU DANS UN LOCAL CHOISI D'UN COMMUN ACCORD ET A CONDITION AUSSI QUE LA FEDERATION RESPECTE L'ETHIQUE SYNDICALE TELLE QUE DEFINIE PAR L'U.G.T.T. ET L'UNION GENERALE DES SYNDICATS LIBYENS."

LES DEUX UNIONS REAFFIRMENT LEUR ENTIERE ADHESION AU FRONT DE LA

RESISTANCE ("A-JABHAT A SUMUUD" IN ARABIC TEXT) QU'ELLES CONSIDERENT COMME REPLIQUE RADICALE ET UNIQUE EMANANT DE LA VOLONTE DES MASSES ARABES D'AFFRANCHISSEMENT ET DE RETOUR EN TERRE DE PALESTINE.

ELLES CONSIDERENT QUE LA DECLARATION DE TRIPOLI POUR L'UNIFICATION DES FORCES DE COMBAT PALESTINIENNES EST LA MEILLEURE REponse AU SIONISME ET A LA REATION ARABE MENEe PAR LE TRAITRE DIRIGEANT DU CAIRE.

LES DEUX CENTRALES SYNDICALES EXPRIMENT LEUR ADHESION TOTALE AU MOUVEMENT ARABE DE LIBERATION ET CONSIDERAENT QUE CE QUI A ETE PRIS PAR LA FORCE NE PEUT ETRE RESTITUE QUE PAR LA FORCE ET QUE LE COMBAT CONTRE LE SIONISME N'EST PAS UN COMBAT DE FRONTIERE MAIS D'EXISTENCE.

LE COMMUNIQUE AJOUTE QUE LES DEUX UNIONS RAPPELLENT L'OPPORTUNITE
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DE L'ACTION QU'ELLES ONT ENTREPRISE EN FAVEUR DU RAPPROCHEMENT DES DEUX PAYS FRERES AU NIVEAU OFFICIEL ET POPULAIRE ET APPELLENT POUR PLUS DE COHESION EN VUE DE REALISER LA PROSPERITE ECONOMIQUE, BASE DE L'UNION TOTALE. END UNCLASSIFIED.
MULCAHY

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